(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of applications which are under consideration from the States of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TOE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) There is 8% reservation for the Paramilitary/ Police/Government personnel (PMP) category in the allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships. Widows/dependants of the officers of the Indian Police Service killed while performing official duty are also eligible to apply for the dealerships/ distributorships under this category. The dependants of Police personnel, who are killed in action or persons permanently disabled while performing their duties and have not been suitably rehabilitated are also eligible for allotment of these dealerships/distributorships under the discretionary quota.

(c) Four locations in the PMP category are pending for selection of LPG distributors in the State of Assam. No location in this category is pending for selection of LPG distributors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. No location in this category is pending for selection of retails outlet dealers in the States of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir.

Entry of private oil firms in retail outlets

1811. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to allow private Oil Firms to set up retail outlets for Petrol and Diesel;

(b) whether this measure will affect Oil Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to safeguard the interests of Oil Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India announced a road map for dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in November, 1997. The aforesaid announcement *inter alia* provided for grant of marketing rights for transportation fuels *viz.* Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) conditional on owning and operating refineries with an investment of at least Rs. 2,000 crore or oil

exploration and production companies producing atleast three million tonnes of crude oil annually. Full deregulation of Petroleum Sector is targetted from 1st April, 2002.

In this regard, as per the detailed Marketing Guidelines to be notified, private players fulfilling the laid down conditions would be entitled to have the marketing rights for transportation fuels.

Appointment of M/s Mc Kinsey by ONGC

† l812. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI KUMKUMRAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation had appointed M/s. Mc Kinsey to study the administrative set up and to suggest the structural changes in the functioning of the Commission so as to improve its working and to reduce the administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, whether M/s. Mc Kinsey has since submitted its report and if so, the recommendations made by them; and

(c) whether the Government have since examined these recommendations and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PEIROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANG WAR): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had, in March, 1997, initiated a project for restructuring of the Corporation in consultation with M/s Mc Kinsey and Company Incorporated, International Management Consultants. The Consultants had submitted their recommendations on Organisation Transformation Project (OTP) of ONGC to its management. The recommendations of the Consultants were received by ONGC in phases over a period of time during the years 1997 to 1999. The recommendations of the Consultants highlighted the need to have a greater focus on ONGC's core activities of finding and producing oil and gas, better management of skills and expertise in oil field services, greater commercial and performance accountability and quicker decision making by decentralisation. The operative recommendations of the Consultants, *inter- alia,* included the need for focussed attention on structural changes; and also changes in systems and procedures in

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.